

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The terminal plug according to claim [[2]] 20, wherein the longitudinal slot is coaxially aligned with a longitudinal axis of the plug body.

4. (Currently Amended) The terminal plug according to claim [[2]] 20, wherein the longitudinal slot completely penetrates the plug body.

5. (Currently Amended) The terminal plug according to claim [[2]] 20, wherein the plug body has an upper end and a bottom end and the longitudinal slot has a width at the upper end of the plug which is different from the width at the bottom end.

6. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug according to claim 5, wherein said longitudinal slot has a greater width at the upper end of the plug body than at the bottom end.

7. (Currently Amended) The terminal plug according to claim [[2]] 20, wherein said longitudinal slot has relieved surfaces or slotted walls.

8. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug according to claim 7, wherein said slot is provided with teeth.

9. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug according to claim 8, wherein the plug body includes an upper end and a bottom end and the longitudinal slot has opposing walls and the distance between the opposing walls becomes smaller from an upper end of the plug down to a bottom end of the plug.

10. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug according to claim 8, wherein the size of the teeth are such that a screw, by which the terminal plug is fixed to the muntin, is passed through the slot and is provided with a tip which abuts the successively arranged teeth, thereby widening said slot.

11. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug according to claim 10, wherein the plug body includes an upper end and a bottom end and said slot has a greater width at an upper end than at a bottom end of the plug.

Claims 12-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A terminal plug for screwing a muntin bar or a muntin cross to a spacer frame of in particular an insulated glass window, comprising in combination: a muntin having an end and an outer surface, the end of the muntin including an inner wall defining a hollow space, the inner wall having a planar surface; and a terminal plug including a plug body that is insertable into the hollow space of the end of the muntin, a flange positioned on the plug body and a plurality of spring elements extending

from the plug body, the plurality of spring elements being operable to engage the planar surface of the inner wall of the end of the muntin, the plug body defining a longitudinal slot and being operable to be spread apart when inserted into the muntin such that the terminal plug is anchored to the end of the muntin; and

wherein said longitudinal slot is adapted to receive a screw passing through said flange for the purpose of spreading the plug body apart.

21. (Currently Amended) A terminal plug for screwing a muntin bar or a muntin cross to a spacer frame of in particular an insulated glass window, comprising in combination: a muntin having an end and an outer surface, the end of said muntin including an inner wall defining a hollow space;

a terminal plug including a plug body that is insertable into the hollow space of the muntin, a flange positioned on the plug body and a plurality of spring elements extending from the plug body, the flange being operable to engage the outer surface of the muntin when the plug body is inserted into the hollow space of the muntin, the plug body defining a longitudinal slot and being operable to be spread apart when inserted into the muntin such that the terminal plug is anchored against the inner wall of the muntin, the plurality of spring elements being operable to engage inner wall of the muntin, the width of the plug body and plurality of spring elements being greater than the width of the hollow space of the muntin such that the spring elements create a nearly friction-tight engagement connection with the inner wall of the end of the muntin upon insertion of the plug body into the hollow space; and

wherein said flange further comprises a recess, said recess communicating with said longitudinal slot.

22. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug of claim 21, wherein the plug body comprises opposing walls that define the longitudinal slot.

23. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug of claim 22, wherein each wall of the opposing walls of the longitudinal slot comprises a slotted wall.

24. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug of claim 23, wherein each slotted wall comprises a plurality of teeth.

25. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug of claim 24, wherein the plug body has an upper end and a bottom end and a distance between the plurality of teeth on each of the slotted walls becomes smaller from the upper end to the bottom end of the plug body.

26. (Previously Presented) A terminal plug made out of plastic for screwing a muntin bar or a muntin cross to a spacer frame of in particular an insulated glass window, comprising in combination:

a muntin having an end and an outer surface, the end of the muntin including a hollow space and an inner wall; and

a terminal plug operable to be inserted into the hollow space of the muntin, the terminal plug having a body including an outer surface, a flange and defining a longitudinal slot, the longitudinal slot having an upper end and a bottom end, the upper end defining a recess that extends through the flange, the longitudinal slot further being adapted to receive a screw passing

through the recess in the flange such that the body is operable to be spread apart and provide a press fit by at least a part of its outer surface against the inner wall of the muntin when the body is positioned in the hollow space of the muntin and a screw is received in the longitudinal slot with the recess of the flange being operable to receive refuse material resulting from the screw being received within the longitudinal slot.

27. (Previously Presented) The terminal plug and muntin combination according to claim 26, wherein the recess is formed by a cone followed by a cylindrical hollow space, the volume of the cone and cylindrical hollow space.